

***CORYTHUCHA MELISSAE*, A NEW SPECIES OF LACE BUG (HETEROPTERA: TINGIDAE) FROM MANZANITA IN CALIFORNIA¹**

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ABSTRACT: Description and illustrations for a new species, *Corythucha melissae*, collected on manzanita, the ericaceous plant *Arctostaphylos regismontana* Eastwood in California.

The genus *Corythucha* Stål (1873:119, 122) has been reported to be represented by 49 species in North America (Froeschner, 1988:714-721), many more than does any other lace bug genus occurring in that area. All of them, including the new species described below, feed on the juices of plants.

***Corythucha melissae*, NEW SPECIES**

Figures 1, 2

Diagnosis: This new species is a member of the group of *Corythucha* species characterized by having the lateral carinae of the pronotal disc extending anteriorly to terminate at the crest of the interhumeral convexity and the fusion of the median carina with the hood occupying the lower fourth or more of the posterior margin of the elevated, inflated hood (Figs. 2, 3). Within that group, it agrees with *Corythucha distincta* Osborn and Drake (1916:13) in having the subbasal and preapical brown crossbands in the costal area, but differs most conspicuously from *C. distincta* in having the pronotal hood low and broadly arched rather than tall, converging, and narrowly arched dorsally (compare Figs. 2, 3).

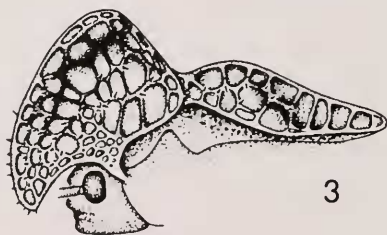
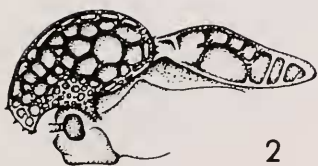
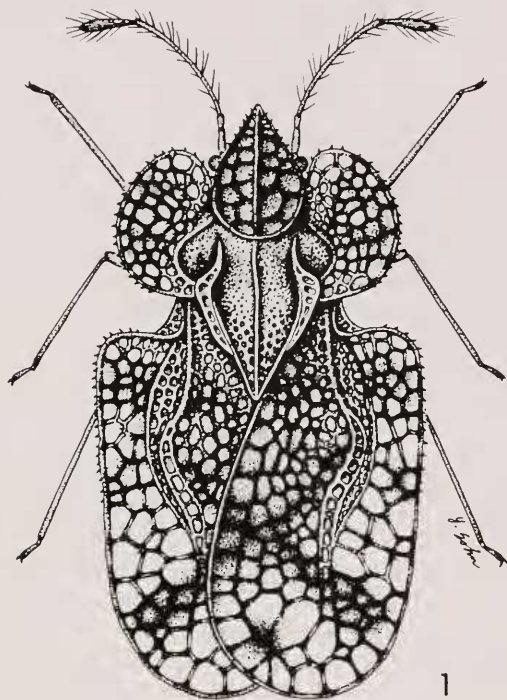
Description of holotype female: Length 3.3 mm. Areolae of wings and paranota transparent, with dark brown clouding forming the following marks:- on paranota two indefinite spots, one on anterior half, one on posterior half; costal area with a subbasal and a subapical crossbar; anterior and posterior ends of discoidal areas, these extended to join the costal cross bars. Hood with veins dark brown, areolae milky; pronotal surface yellowish brown, shining. Antennae yellowish with segments I and II and apex of IV noticeably darker. Legs yellowish brown. Head and ventral surface of body, including longitudinal carinae of rostral groove, shining black.

Hood much swollen on posterior half, gradually tapering anteriorly, with length almost equal to length of median carina [1.6:1.7], slightly higher than median carina, its dorsal outline broadly and almost evenly rounded (Fig. 2), veins of lateral surfaces with few very small spines. Median carina slightly lower than hood, dorsal margin longitudinally convex, with the large, semicircular arcola near midlength bordered by smaller areolae. Lateral pronotal carinae anteriorly evanescent at summit of interhumeral convexity, much lower than median carina, with a row of

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Figs. 1-2. *Corythucha melissae*, n. sp. 1. Habitus, natural length 3.3 mm; 2. lateral view of head, hood and median carina of pronotum. Fig. 3. *Corythucha distincta* Osborn and Drake, lateral view of head, hood and median carina.

areolae. Free margin of paranota with a row of very small spines. Hemelytron with discal elevation prominent; lateral margin of hemelytron and outer vein of discoidal area each with a row of small spines.

The available specimens are all quite similar, with length varying from 3.0-3.3, the holotype being the longest; intensity of dark markings varying from darkest on the recent specimen and paler brown on the older specimens, apparently having faded through time.

Holotype female, with two labels: Upper label: "Locality, U.S.A., CA. San Mateo Co., El Cate de Madera OSP, Collection date 8/18/99, Collected by Melissa Andres"; lower label: "Host plant: Ericaceae, *Arctostaphylos regismontana*, Voucher number 589-b." Deposited in the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Nine paratypes: 2♂♂, 7♀♀, from "Diamond Springs, Cal., V-20-56, S.W. Hitchcock collector," are deposited as follows: 1♂, 1♀ in collection of L. T. Miller, Department of Agriculture, Charleston, West Virginia; 1♂ and 4♀♀ in collection of Museum of Natural History, Box U-43, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06268; and 2♀♀ in the National Museum of Natural History Washington, D.C. 20560-0105.

This species bears the given name of Melissa Andres who collected it during an ecological study of insects on manzanita.

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